

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing a computer user with an accessible electronic dictionary system, the method comprising:

- receiving a data request action for a word appearing in an electronic document;
- accessing information regarding context of the word derived from within the electronic document in which the word appears;
- accessing a definition of the word;
- storing the definition of the word along with the context information for the word;

and

enabling access by the computer user to the definition and the context information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the context information includes at least one word that is positioned adjacent to the word within the electronic document from which the context information was retrieved.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling access to a definition and context information for one or more other words that are related to the word when enabling access to the definition and context information for the word.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein enabling access to the definition and the context information for the word includes displaying context information from more than one electronic document in which the word has appeared.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining a selectable level of detail for the definition to be retrieved.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- identifying a target community appropriate for the computer user inputting the data request action; and
- selecting the definition to be stored for the word from among more than one available definition based on the target community identified.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein:
2 identifying the target community includes determining the target community
3 based on identification information for the computer user, and
4 selecting one or more definitions for display based on the target community.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification
2 information based on an Internet Protocol address of the computer user.

1 9. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification
2 information based on a screen name of the computer user.

1 10. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification
2 information based on a user profile of the computer user.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the definition and the context information for
2 the word is stored in a manner designed to enable mobile access.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the definition and the context information are
2 stored in a manner to enable future use by a computer user other than the computer user
3 responsible for generating the data request action.

1 13. An electronic dictionary comprising:
2 definitions for one or more words identified from within an electronic document
3 that is distinct from the electronic dictionary; and
4 context information for at least one of the words based on information regarding
5 context of the word from within the electronic document.

1 14. The electronic dictionary of claim 13 wherein the context information
2 includes at least one word that is positioned adjacent to the word within the electronic
3 document from which the word was identified.

1 15. The electronic dictionary of claim 13 wherein the electronic dictionary
2 includes definitions and related context information for more than one word identified by
3 a single user.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the single user is defined as a single
2 electronic identity.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the single electronic identity is defined as an
2 Internet Protocol address.

1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the single electronic identity is defined as a
2 screen name.

1 19. The method of claim 13 wherein the electronic dictionary includes definitions
2 and related context of information for at least one word identified by each of more than
3 one related identity.

1 20. A method for using an electronic dictionary to retrieve information related to
2 a word appearing in an electronic document, the method comprising:

3 receiving a data request action for a word appearing in an accessed electronic
4 document;

5 accessing at least one definition of the word and context information regarding
6 context of the word derived from within a different electronic document in which the
7 word also appeared; and

8 enabling a display of the definition and the context information.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the different electronic document from
2 which the context information was derived was previously viewed by a party submitting
3 the data request action.

1 22. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the definition includes accessing
2 the definition for more than one word.

1 23. The method of claim 20 wherein enabling the display includes enabling the
2 display of the context information derived from within more than one different electronic
3 document in which the word also appeared.

1 24. The method of claim 20 wherein enabling the display of the context
2 information includes enabling the display of at least one word that is positioned adjacent
3 to the word within the different electronic document in which the context information
4 was derived.

1 25. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the definition and context
2 information includes accessing information stored relative to a single requesting user.

1 26. The method of claim 20 further comprising enabling selection of a level of
2 detail for the context information related to the word to be displayed in response to the
3 data request action.

1 27. The method of claim 20 further comprising:
2 identifying a target community appropriate for a party inputting the data request
3 action; and
4 selecting the definition to be stored for the word from among more than one
5 available definitions based on the target community identified.

1 28. The method of claim 27 wherein selecting among the definitions includes
2 selecting based on a relationship between the target community identified and the context
3 information.

1 29. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing includes retrieving a portion of
2 the definition and the context information for the word from storage.

1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein retrieving includes retrieving multiple words
2 and corresponding contexts from storage.

1 31. The method of claim 29 wherein retrieving includes retrieving the definition
2 and the context information from among multiple instances of context information stored
3 for the word in storage.

1 32. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the context information includes
2 accessing the context information from a device that is distinct from a device generating
3 the data request action.

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